applied to said strands to provide a substantially continuous coating of said alkali-resistant thermoplastic material about said strands.

2. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh is heated after formation thereof to fuse said thermoplastic material to allow bonding at areas where said strands intersect.

3. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 8 wherein said mesh is heated after formation thereof to fuse or sinter said portion of the fibrous thermoplastic material to form said substantially continuous mass.

4. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, olefin copolymers or polyvinylidene chloride.

5. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh has a strand count of about 2 to about 18 strands per inch in each direction.

6. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said strands comprise bundled glass fibers having a linear density of about 33 to about 300 tex.

7. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh is no greater than about 0.020 inch in thickness.

8. (Unchanged) A reinforcement for cementitious boards comprising an open mesh of high modulus of elasticity fiber strands covered by alkali-resistant thermoplastic material, wherein said thermoplastic material initially is fibrous, and wherein at least a portion of the fibrous thermoplastic material is fused or sintered such that the portion of the fibrous

thermoplastic material is merged into a substantially continuous mass which substantially encapsulates a respective high modulus of elasticity fiber strand.

9. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 8 wherein said fibrous thermoplastic material is friction spun as a fibrous sheath on a core comprised of said high modulus of elasticity strand.

36. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 8, wherein the high modulus of elasticity fiber strands comprised E-glass, and wherein the fibrous thermoplastic material comprises a core sliver of thermoplastic fibers commingled with the high modulus of elasticity fiber strands, and a plurality of sheath thermoplastic fibers which cover the core sliver thermoplastic fibers and high modulus of elasticity fiber strands.

37. (Amended) The reinforcement of claim 36, wherein the core sliver of thermoplastic fibers comprise one or more of isotactic or syndiotactic polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers or other olefinic fibers, nylon, polyvinyl chloride, or polyester, and wherein the sheath fibers comprise one or more of polypropylene, polyethylene, copolymers of polybutylene and propylene, ethylene propylene rubber, thermoplastic polyolefin rubber, polyvinylidene chloride, and ethylene-propylene diene monomer.

38. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1, wherein said alkali-resistant thermoplastic material is applied via cross head extrusion to said strands.

39. (Amended) The reinforcement of claim 4 wherein said olefin copolymers include ethylene propylene rubber, thermoplastic polyolefin rubber, ethylene-propylene diene monomer or copolymers of polybutylene and propylene.